

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5059

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EGEN UNGA UR

SUBJECT: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION: CONSULTATION WITH SOVIETS

REF: A. STATE 067792; B. STATE 57513; C. USUN 1118.

1. SUMMARY: NESTERENKO DESCRIBED SOVIET POSITION ON SPECIAL SESSION AS SYMPATHETIC TO LDCE PROBLEMS; RELUCTANT TO SEE SESSION GET INTO CONCRETE MEASURES; AND OPPOSED TO CREATION OF ANY NEW BODIES. SOVIETS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ENERGY BUT WILL STICK TO POSITIONS SET FORTH IN WASHINGTON BILATERAL MEETINGS AND WISH TO AVOID ATTEMPTS AT PRICE-FIXING OR OTHER CONCRETE STEPS. SOVIETS OPPOSE IDEA OF WORKING GROUPS BUT COULD ACCEPT ONE OR TWO DRAFTING GROUPS. SOVIET DELEGATION IS INSTRUCTED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH U.S. DELEGATION.
END SUMMARY:

2. I CALLED ON ALEKSEY NESTERENKO, CHIEF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS DIVISION OF MFA, ON APRIL 6 AND PRESENTED U.S. VIEWS ON UNGA SPECIAL SESSION PER REFS A AND B. NOTING THAT FORMAL EE PRESENTATION (REF C) BROUGHT UP ROB, I USED GUIDANCE PARA 5 REF A ON THAT SUBJECT.

3. NESTERENKO, WHO IS DEPARTING FOR NEW YORK APRIL 7 WITH GROMYKO, RESPONDED WITH EXPOSITION OF SOVIET VIEWS:
A. SOVIETS RESPECT INITIATIVE OF LDCE AND UNDERSTAND THEIR NEEDS, AND THEREFORE SUPPORTED CONVENING OF SPECIAL SESSION
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TO DISCUSS RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT.

B. HOWEVER THEY ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BECAUSE THE APPROACH IS TOO GRANDIOSE AND THE DIFFERENCES AMONG PARTICIPANTS ARE TOO GREAT.

C. NO NECESSARY TO REPEAT "WELL-KNOWN" SOVIET APPROACH TO LDC PROBLEMS. OF COURSE SOVIET DELEGATION WILL PROCEED FROM THIS PRINCIPLED SOVIET POSITION, AND WILL TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN SEEKING CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

D. JOINT U.S.-SOVIET EFFORTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTIONS. IN ANY CASE, SESSION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR RELAXATION IN TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO CREATE A NEW POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, NOT ONLY BILATERALLY BUT ALSO IN WORLD AS A WHOLE. WE ARE ENGAGED IN IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH SHOULD BE HELPED RATHER THAN HINDERED BY SESSION. THE AGENDA INCLUDES SOME CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS AND OUR APPROACH MAY BE DIFFERENT FOR EXAMPLE REGARDING MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LDCS, AND NEOCOLONIALISM BUT THIS SHOULD NOT PREVENT CONSTRUCTIVE WORK, A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS ALONG SAME PATH WE ARE FOLLOWING IN DEVELOPING DETENTE.

E. RATHER THAN SEEK TO WORK OUT CONCRETE MEASURES, SOVIETS BELIEVE SESSION SHOULD CONCLUDE WITH GENERAL DECLARATION REGARDING CERTAIN PRINCIPLES, THE REALIZATION OF WHICH WOULD CREATE THE BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT SOLUTION OF CONCRETE PROBLEMS. OUR EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING "CHARTER OF MEXICO" (UNCTAD), AS WELL AS MUTUAL EXPERIENCE AT HELSINKI AND GENEVA ON CSCE, SHOWS HOW COMPLEX AND DELICATE SUCH AN OPERATION CAN BE. BUT EVEN SO, THIS MAY BE THE EASIEST OF SEVERAL DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED IN THE SESSION.

F. THE INITIATORS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON APPROVED DRAFTS, AND THUS IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN NEW YORK. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH OF US TO KNOW WHETHER THE ENERGY CRISIS WILL BE DISCUSSED OR NOT. SOME OF THE INITIATORS SAY IT SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED, OTHERS SAY IT SHOULD BE. SOVIET SIDE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY QUESTION. IF ENERGY COMES UP, SOVIET SIDE WILL STICK TO THE POSITION SET FORTH IN OUR BILATERAL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON (REFERENCE PRESUMABLY IS TO LAST GROMYKO VISIT). SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO PURSUE CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS ON ENERGY, ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS WITH DUE ACCOUNT FOR THE IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERESTS OF BOTH EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS. THE DISCUSSION WILL PROBABLY BE GENERAL, SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE COULD FIND CONCRETE SOLUTIONS ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS FIXING PRICES. THE PRICE QUESTION SHOULD PERHAPS BE REGULATED IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NOT IN THE SPECIAL SESSION. PERHAPS THE SESSION COULD ADOPT A STATEMENT THAT THE PRICE QUESTION SHOULD BE SOLVED ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS.

G. QUESTION OF PROCEDURES IS IMPORTANT. SOVIETS PREFER TO

WORK ALONG LINES OF REGULAR UNGA. THERE CAN BE PLENARY SESSIONS, IF NECESSARY COMMITTEE II CAN BE CONVENED. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED WORKING GROUPS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS, BUT WE SHOULD AVOID THE SWAMP. SOVIET COULD HOWEVER AGREE IF NECESSARY TO CREATE ONE OR TWO DRAFTING OR "CONTACT" GROUPS TO WORK ON A DECLARATION AND ANY CONCRETE DOCUMENTS (FOR EXAMPLE SOME PROPOSE AN ACTION PLAN).

H. AGREE THAT SESSION SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE WORK OF OTHER BODIES. MOREOVER, IT SHOULD NOT SET UP NEW BODIES WHICH DUPLICATE EXISTING BODIES. THIS WOULD BE VERY IRRATIONAL. SUFFICIENT BODIES ALREADY EXIST IN THE UN AND ELSEWHERE.

I. SOVIETS SEEK COMMON LANGUAGE WITH U.S. AND COMMON EFFORTS TO CONVINCE OTHERS NOT TO CREATE NEW ORGANS BUT TO ESTABLISH REAL COOPERATION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF LDCS.

J. AGREE THAT WE SHOULD HAVE CLOSE CONTACT IN NEW YORK. IN SPIRIT OF ALREADY EXISTING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES SOVIET DELEGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH U.S. DELEGATION AND TO WORK JOINTLY. PROBLEMS MAY DEVELOP AT THE SESSION BECAUSE IT IS A COMPLEX SITUATION, SO OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE THE SESSION EFFECTIVE IN HELPING THE LDCS, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN THE UN, IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT.

K. NESTERENKO DID NOT MENTION ROB.

4. I RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. SHARES THE VIEW THAT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UN SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE LARGER QUESTION OF IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS. I ALSO AGREED THAT THE CREATION OF NEW MACHINERY IS NOT DESIRABLE.

5. ON THE ENERGY QUESTION, I RESPONDED THAT SOME DISCUSSION IS PROBABLY INEVITABLE BECAUSE IT IS A QUESTION OF GREAT CONCERN TO MANY COUNTRIES. U.S. HOPES THAT SUCH DISCUSSION WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING, AND CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEK TO CREATE A SPLIT BETWEEN EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS. WE WOULD SUPPORT REASONABLE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM, WHICH COULD BE USEFUL IN LAYING IT OUT IN A REALISTIC WAY.

6. I REITERATED THAT U.S. DELEGATION WOULD EXPECT TO BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION.

7. NESTERENKO CONCLUDED WITH ASSESSMENT THAT OUR POSITIONS SEEM SIMILAR, ALTHOUGH NOT EXACTLY THE SAME. HE NOTED HE HAD NOT TOUCHED ON MANY DETAILS, WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD STILL BE GUESSWORK AND THEREFORE BEST LEFT FOR NEW YORK.
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